

R209

R A3048)1BYLCZCIYC

PORTUGAL-INTERVENTION

WASHINGTON, NOV. 5, REUTER -- A STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL REFUSED TODAY TO SAY WHETHER THE UNITED STATES WAS INTERVENING IN STRIFE-TORN ANGOLA BUT SAID THERE WAS NO EVIDENCE THAT NEIGHBORING ZAIRE WAS TRANSFERRING U.S. MILITARY SUPPLIES TO THE PORTUGUESE COLONY.

ACTING ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE EDWARD MULCAHY TOLD A HOUSE INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE THE STATE DEPARTMENT WAS NOT AWARE AT THIS TIME THAT ANY MATERIAL PROVIDED TO ZAIRE WAS BEING TRANSFERRED TO ANGOLA.

HE SAID U.S. MILITARY AID TO ZAIRE CONSISTED CHIEFLY OF TRANSPORT AIRCRAFT, LAND TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS.

PRESS REPORTS HAVE SAID THE UNITED STATES HAS BEEN FUNNELLING AID TO ANTI-COMMUNIST FRACTIONS IN ANGOLA, WHICH IS DUE TO BECOME INDEPENDENT NEXT TUESDAY. MR. MULCAHY SAID THE STATE DEPARTMENT DID NOT COMMENT ON SUCH REPORTS.

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HE AGREED WITH A QUESTIONER THAT U.S. POLICY WAS ONE OF NONINTERVENTION BUT SAID HE WAS NOT PREPARED TO COMMENT ON WHETHER THE UNITED STATES WAS INTERVENING IN ANGOLA.

IN VIEW OF THE DELICATE SITUATION, HE SAID, SUCH MATTERS SHOULD BE DISCUSSED IN A CLOSED SESSION OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE.

MR. MULCAHY SAID THE UNITED STATES HAD DONATED 225,000 DOLLARS FOR REFUGEE AID IN ANGOLA AND HAD TAKEN OUT 31,600 PEOPLE TO LISBON ABOARD CHARTERED PLANES.

HE SAID THE UNITED STATES WAS PREPARED TO RESPOND FAVORABLY TO FURTHER REQUESTS FROM INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS FOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO RELIEF AND REHABILITATION PROGRAMS WITHIN ANGOLA.

HE ALSO SAID THE UNITED STATES WAS ENCOURAGED BY THE INITIATIVE OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY IN TRYING TO END THE FIGHTING AND BRING THE RIVAL INDEPENDENCE MOVEMENTS TOGETHER.

REUTER-1554